



Investing in people: delivering a just transition for all Europeans

Jornada con representantes de las regiones europeas sobre la política de la industria eólica

2019ko apirilaren 4an, Wind Europe. BEC

Egunon,

Wind Europe profesionalen azoka aurrera doa. Aste oso interesgarria izaten ari da eta pozik gaude egun hauetan ikusten, entzuten eta ikasten ari garen guztiarekin.

Pozik, ere bai, Wind Europe aukera paregabea izaten ari delako Euskadiren gaitasun industrialak eta teknologikoak mundu zabalean erakusteko.

Herri txiki batentzat, gainera, bereziki garrantzitsua egiten zaigu dimentsio honetako erakusleho bat izatea eta uste dut hau hasi besterik ez dela egin, etorkizunera begira badaukagulako zer esan eta zer egin energiaren alor industrialean.

I thank and congratulate Wind Europe for opening this window to the regions. It is an opportunity to analyse and debate about regional policies at the European level.

And if you allow me, I wish to take this moment to share with all of you our reflection from the Basque



Country in relation to Europe today and the role that the regions should play in the leadership of the Union.

We are in an increasingly globalized economy, society and reality.

The world, which can be very large and very small, at the same time, represents the playing field in which we operate, from the social, institutional and economic point of view.

If we analyse this from Europe, we are between two macro-powers that try to set the rules of the game, without scruples and with interests, sometimes, dangerous.

Geopolitical tensions mark an uncertainty that affects us, without any doubt.

In the middle, Europe with serious leadership and governance difficulties. With a proliferation, in some member states, of populist policies and even improvised policies.

From the Basque Country we understand it necessary and urgent to work for a solid Europe less vulnerable to the dominant powers-

We know that "Brussels" is aware of this and that it makes a commitment to the competitive improvement of the European Union as a whole, through policies in which regions can act as subjects and relevant in industry and innovation policies.

In the Basque Country, we have no doubt that innovation policies must be released at a local level.



You can see on the map the result of the EU Innovation Panel where the leading regions are marked in dark blue and the weakest ones in light yellow.

The Basque Country, despite being located in a predominantly yellow state, reflects a green that represents High innovation.

We aim to be part of the leading regions and we are aware that for this we must work in collaboration with innovative regions of other member states.

That's how we understand it. This is what we are doing, and the European Union has been setting a strategy along these lines within the framework of Smart Specialization.

As you all know, in its 2017 Communication, the European Commission stresses that Europe's competitive edge is increasingly dependent on its capacity to promote new growth models at the regional level, by targeting investments in innovative sectors with significant growth potential and high added value. That means economy growth and employment.

In this sense, Basque Country has defined 3 areas of specialization and one of opportunity:

- Advanced Manufacturing. In a global economy, the Basque Industry 4.0 Strategy is being developed, as this could not be any other way, fostering our interregional collaboration going beyond regional and national borders.



- Energy. The choice of Energy as one of the three main priorities in the Basque Smart Specialisation Strategy was based on the key role the sector plays in the Basque economy, the strength of the sector and its global leading companies, their international presence in global markets and their innovation absorptive capacity.
- Health
- Food

The Basque Government is fully committed to interregional collaborations. For this reason, the Basque Country, together with 7 other European regions founded The Vanguard Initiative, that seeks to lead by example in developing interregional cooperation and multi-level governance for supporting clusters and regional eco-systems to focus on smart specialisations in priority areas for transforming and emerging industries. Vanguard regions want to build the synergies and complementarities in smart specialisation strategies to boost world-class clusters and cluster networks, in particular through pilots and large-scale demonstrators.

The Basque Country participates with different grades of involvement in five S3 platform on Industrial Modernisation partnerships. SPRI, together with the delegation of the Basque Government in Brussels, and the support of different agents of the Basque innovation system is co-leading one of them, the Advanced Manufacturing for energy related



applications in harsh environments together with Scotland, and the technical support of the Basque Energy Cluster, and taking part in:

- Efficient and Sustainable manufacturing platform partnership, with the technical support of Tecnalia
- Cybersecurity partnership, with the technical support of the Basque Cybersecurity Center
- Advanced materials for energy partnership, with the technical support of IK4 Tekniker
- Medical technologies partnership with the technical support of the Basque Health Cluster

ENERGY

Energy is a topic of high interest amongst EU Member States and regions. Currently, nearly 200 EU members – 179 regions and 20 Member States – have identified energy-related priorities as part of their smart specialisation strategies. In this context, there is an increasing need to align innovation and energy policy roadmaps across European territories.

The Basque Energy Cluster has a sound activity in the organization and coordination of Working Groups around a common objective: **the definition in detail of technology challenges, dynamisation activities and high impact, collaborative, strategic initiatives which now constitute the basis of the deployment of the Energibasque strategy.**

Energy companies plus 47 organisation from other cluster associations, research centres, universities,



public agencies have together defined these challenges and initiatives for seven energy value chains:

- Electricity Transmission and Distribution,
- Wind Energy,
- Concentrated Solar Power,
- Marine energies,
- Electric Vehicle,
- Energy Efficiency,
- Oil&Gas

and two enabling technological areas:

- Energy storage and Power Electronics

As a consequence of this analysis, the Energy RIS3 Steering Group (for the deployment of the strategy) has identified **3 new value chains** that incorporate the main capabilities in our region, supposes new market opportunities and proposed common technological challenges, following the smart specialisation concepts of prioritisation, alignment, cross-sectorial, cross-technology and effectiveness of investments.

Offshore Energy, Smart Grids and Resource and Efficient Manufacturing, the 3 new value chains, comprise common challenges and technological solutions of some of our consolidated value chains in expensive, risky and knowledge-based businesses which are generally beyond the level of investment and expertise that a single company, let alone an SME, or even a region, can afford.



Therefore, we aim to convert this new approach into real global value chains, aiming at opening opportunities and complementary resources for our companies not only at regional level, but also globally.

Industrial transformation is critical to improve Europe's competitiveness, and as the EU moves towards negotiations and discussions on a new **Multi-Annual Financial Framework**, this is an opportune time to reflect on the type of instruments at the EU-level which might support these activities.

We are already proposing ideas on new instruments to support large-impact, inter-regional projects to accelerate Europe's industrial (and energy) transformation and the industrial (and energy) transition of European Regions.